

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

[c1] A unified messaging system, comprising:

a network;

a first messaging system connected to the network;

at least one additional messaging system connected to the network;

a network-connected device employing a software tool to integrate said messaging systems, said software tool comprising:

means to accept lists of messages from each messaging system,

means to correlate changes to said messages based on definable parameters selected from the group consisting of: size, date, type, and status, and

means to replicate and synchronize said messages between all of the messaging systems so that they contain identical content.

[c2] The unified messaging system of claim [c1], further comprising a shared file system connected to said network.

[c3] The unified messaging system of claim [c2], wherein said shared file system includes means for storing flat files.

[c4] The unified messaging system of claim [c3], wherein said shared file system comprises an additional messaging system.

[c5] The unified messaging system of claim [c1], wherein said means to accept accepts

messages selected from the group consisting of voice, e-mail, fax, SMS, IM, and pager.

[c6] The unified messaging system of claim [c1], wherein said means to replicate reproduces message content in an appropriate standard format for each messaging system.

[c7] A method of unifying messaging on a network, comprising:

accepting lists of messages from a plurality of messaging systems connected to said network,

correlating changes to said messages based on definable parameters selected from the group consisting of: size, date, type, and status, and

replicating and synchronizing said messages between all of the messaging systems so that they contain identical content.

[c8] A method of unifying messaging of claim [c7], further comprising storing flat files on a shared file system connected to said network.

[c9] A method of unifying messaging of claim [c8], further comprising employing said shared file system as an additional messaging system.

[c10] A method of unifying messaging of claim [c7], wherein messages accepted in forms selected from the group consisting of voice, e-mail, fax, SMS, IM, and pager.

[c11] A method of unifying messaging of claim [c7], wherein said replicating step reproduces message content in an appropriate standard format for each messaging system.